



A Message From Barry



Over the last few months, I have had the opportunity to meet, often for the first time, a great number of the people who work and live in our homes. I do not like to force my way into someone's life and so I very much appreciate invitations to coffee or breaking bread in the time and space of people's comfort.

All of you, or at least most of you, will know that I have had a much longer and closer affiliation with Swan Industries over the years. The chance to get to know some of you and your work, especially in the residences, is long overdue. As well, the opportunity to share ideas and viewpoints is crucial for all of us. I do not believe in distant and isolated management.

The roles we all play to make our service work are often necessary but should never mean that a better idea doesn't get a chance to happen, or that superiority or inferiority are the ways we feel we must deal with each other.

The ethic of anyone working in a human service is that they are servants. They choose to teach, to support, to helpto care. Their talents are given to serving others.

It is a demanding ethic and not actually very popular. This demanding nature of our work is acutely felt when all of us realize how often we need to be supported ourselves: supported in learning new skills, supported in being reminded that you are doing a good job, supported in bringing creative and intelligent energy to our work.

It has and I hope always will be a source of strength to all of us that the vital and thoughtful exchange of opinions and dreams expressed as openly and candidly as possible will be a part of our organization's way of doing things - it is rare to find in the first place and hard to preserve in the second. It is also as important to our work as water is to life.

Barry Bucknell
Executive Director